

Applicant : Michael Dennis Hardwick Date: 4/1/08
For : REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING APPARATUS
IN RESPONSE TO A VARIABLE

Response to Office Action of November 13, 2007

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Remarks/Arguments

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following discussion.

All of the claims have been rejected as being anticipated by Rein (US 5,385,297) or by Mix (US 5,455,487), or as being obvious in view of either Rein or Mix in view of Kummerer et al. (US 6,522,954).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 16, namely, that the control system includes a plurality of controlled appliances (see, for example, the specification, page 3, lines 24-25, describing a plurality of rooms 112 each provided with a radiator 114), a plurality of radio receivers respectively associated with the appliances, and a plurality of controllers each operatively connected between a receiver and its associated appliance (see, for example, the specification, page 4, lines 6-10). Claim 16 therefore has been canceled.

Claim 15 has been amended to include a plurality of transmitters associated with the plurality of sensors, and that the sensors are located at various locations. Basis for this is found at the description of Figure 3 on page 6 of the specification (see infra-red detector 314 and transmitter 316; photometer 320 and transmitter 322).

Other claims have been amended in order to conform those claims to the language of amended claim 1 or to correct claim dependencies.

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Rein discloses a hierarchical control system including a central receiver and a first communications medium operably connecting the central receiver to at least one controller. The system also includes a sensor for sensing conditions, a second communication medium, and a transmitter for transmitting the sensed conditions from the sensor to the central receiver via the second communications medium. The central receiver also includes a receiver for receiving transmissions on the second communications medium and a transmitter for retransmitting the transmissions on the first communications medium. Rein does not disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of radio receivers (respectively associated with a plurality of appliances) receiving a control signal from a sensor, as set forth in present claim 1. Nor does Rein show a plurality of controllers each operatively connected between a receiver and its associated appliance, wherein each receiver is operative to receive the control signal so that its respective controller thereupon controls the appliance connected thereto according to the value of the variable, as also set forth in present claim 1. Accordingly, Rein cannot anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of claim 1, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection based upon Rein be withdrawn.

Mix discloses a device for controlling power to an electrical load, including a portable desktop detector and a wall-mounted receiver unit. The desktop detector detects human presence in a room

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and also ambient light level, and sends signals to the receiver unit to supply power to or withhold power from an electrical load, such as a fluorescent light, and to adjust the brightness of the light. The detector is portable and can be positioned and repositioned at different locations in a room to maximize its ability to detect the presence of a human and to sense the level of ambient light in various room locations. The detector and receiver of each pair have matching addresses so that a receiver will operate an electrical load only in response to its mated detector, thus allowing multiple devices to be used to control multiple lights without interfering with one another. But Mix does not disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of radio receivers (respectively associated with a plurality of appliances) receiving a control signal from a single sensor, as set forth in present claim 1. Nor does Mix show a plurality of controllers each operatively connected between a receiver and its associated appliance, wherein each receiver is operative to receive the control signal, and its respective controller thereupon controls the appliance connected thereto according to the value of the variable, as set forth in present claim 1. In fact, Mix specifies that each light should be operated by its own sensor and thus teaches away from the concept that many appliances can be remotely controlled by a single sensor. Accordingly, Mix cannot anticipate or render obvious the subject

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matter of present claim 1 and it is respectfully requested that the rejection based upon Mix be withdrawn.

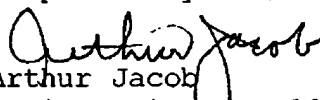
Further, no tenable combination of Rein and Mix is available which could render obvious the claimed invention.

Kummerer merely discloses a control system which can utilize a control signal in the form of a radio signal in the 433 MHz band. The reference is silent with respect to the combination of elements set forth in present claim 1, as described above, and no tenable combination of Kummerer with Rein or Mix is available which could render obvious the subject matter of the present claims.

The remaining claims are dependent upon claim 1 and therefore set forth subject matter which is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims set forth subject matter that is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art and it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,


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Request for Extension in Time to Respond

Applicant hereby requests that the period for response to the outstanding Office Action dated November 13, 2007, now set to expire on February 13, 2008, be extended by two (2) months, so as to expire on April 13, 2008.

Please charge the total amount of four-hundred-sixty dollars (\$460), the large entity fee, to my credit card, as per the accompanying Credit Card Payment form (PTO-2038) to cover the requested two-month extension in time.

Please charge any additional fees due you to Deposit Account No. 502221.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING FACSIMILE
TRANSMITTED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, (571) 273-8300 ON

APRIL 11, 2008

DATE

ARTHUR JACOB

NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE



SIGNATURE

4/11/08

DATE

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